

Case 3569***Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789 (LIMACIDAE) and *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823 (currently *Arion fasciatus*, ARIONIDAE): proposed conservation of both specific names (Gastropoda, Stylommatophora)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.5 and 23.10 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of *Arion* (*Carinarion*) *fasciatus* (Nilsson, 1823) (ARIONIDAE), originally published in the combination *Limax fasciatus* as a primary homonym of *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789 (LIMACIDAE). The two names have not been considered congeneric since the 19th century. We propose to conserve the name *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823, by ruling that the name is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Gastropoda; Pulmonata; LIMACOIDEA; LIMACIDAE; ARIONOIDEA; ARIONIDAE; *Limax*; *Arion*; *Carinarion*; *Limax fasciatus*; *Arion fasciatus*; slugs.

1. The name *Arion* (*Carinarion*) *fasciatus* (Nilsson, 1823) has been used world-wide for many decades to refer unambiguously to a well-known common and widely distributed species of land slug, which is also of importance in the applied sciences (e.g. Godan, 1983; Barker, 2002; South, 1992). The prevailing usage of this name is demonstrated in the 25 works cited in Falkner et al. (2002, p. 141, note 269). Additional citations demonstrating usage include Walden (1955), Lohmander (1959), Hudec (1960), Chichester & Getz (1969), Getz & Chichester (1971); Grossu (1970), Wiktor (1973, 1996), Riedel & Wiktor (1974), McCracken & Selander (1980), Reischütz (1986), Backeljau et al. (1997), Schmid (1997), Turgeon et al. (1998), Jordaens et al. (2002) and Geenen et al. (2006). In Geenen et al. (2006) the three species of the subgenus *Carinarion* are synonymised under *Arion fasciatus*. This emphasises the necessity to conserve Nilsson's name. There are also multiple other examples of usages, especially in the faunistic literature. A list of additional 50 references demonstrating the usage of the name *Arion fasciatus* is held by the Commission Secretariat.

2. *Arion* (*Carinarion*) *fasciatus* (Nilsson, 1823) was originally described as *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823 (p. 3). This was a junior primary homonym of *Limax fasciatus*

Razoumowsky, 1789 (p. 267), and should normally have been regarded as permanently invalid. With the aim of preserving the current usage of the combination *Arion fasciatus* (Nilsson), an action was taken in accordance with Article 23.9.2 of the Code by Falkner et al. (2002, p. 141, note 269) and *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789 was declared a nomen oblitum. We recently found that this action was taken in error and that the conditions of the relevant Articles were not met. The name *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789, has been used as valid at least twice after 1899. Taylor (1906, p. 266) used it in the combination *Limax maximus* var. *fasciata* Razoumowsky, 1789, to denote a variety of *Limax maximus* Linnaeus, 1758, and Alzona (1971, p. 149) used it in the combination *Limax albipes fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789, to denote a subspecies of *Limax albipes* Dumont & Mortillet, 1853 (in Dumont & Mortillet, 1852–1854). In such a case, Article 23.10 of the Code (Erroneous reversal of precedence) requires reference to the Commission.

3. Meanwhile the perception of *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789 has changed. A working-group of the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart (Sektion Malakologie) has undertaken research in the type locality near Lausanne, in order to clarify the identity of that unjustly neglected nominal taxon. As a result of the historical studies of Grossenbacher (1990) the type locality could be more precisely defined and it was found that the species is sufficiently described to be recognised in the field. A large revision is in preparation and from preliminary results it seems very likely that this early name for an alpine *Limax* needs to be revalidated. Up to now no other available names which could potentially be applied to Razoumowsky's *Limax* species have been identified. We thus think it desirable to reinstate its priority over *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823, and then deal with the latter junior homonym by recourse to a different provision of the Code.

4. According to modern taxonomic views there is no conflict or possible confusion of *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823 with *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789. Shortly after its description *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823 was recognised as belonging to the genus *Arion* A. Férusac, 1819. In the 19th century it was consistently placed in this genus, either as a valid species or as a synonym, e.g. by C. Pfeiffer (1828, p. 11), Nordenskiöld & Nylander (1856, p. 3); Westerlund (1865, p. 27), Collinge (1892, p. 77). Thereafter the two species have never been included in the same genus. Introducing a replacement name for *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823, in general use as *Arion fasciatus* (Nilsson, 1823), would cause considerable confusion. Article 23.9.5 of the Code (names not considered congeneric after 1899) states that such a case should be referred to the Commission. The present application aims to conserve the prevailing usage in the interests of stability and universality of nomenclature.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to rule that reversal of precedence of *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789 and *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823 by Falkner et al. (2002, p. 141, note 269) was erroneous and the priority of *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789 is maintained;
- (2) to use its plenary power to rule that the specific name *Limax fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:

- (a) *fasciatus* Nilsson, 1823, as published in the binomen *Limax fasciatus*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Limax fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789;
- (b) *fasciatus* Razoumowsky, 1789, as published in the binomen *Limax fasciatus*.

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